UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Adding up the state budget

The California Department of Finance has now posted summary information on the state budget that was passed last month. As we often point out on this blog, although you may hear the governor and other officials talk about the budget as "balanced," that is not what most folks in ordinary conversation understand as balanced.

There are various reserve funds associated with the state's General Fund. If the total of these reserves is declining, the decline is a mirror of a deficit, i.e., more is going out than is coming in. And that is what happened last fiscal year and what is projected for the current fiscal year 2025-26.

The table below shows the basic figures:

$ millions	2024-25	2025-26
GF July 1	$ 41,978	$ 35,146
Revenues & Transfers	$ 226,745	$ 215,733
Expenditures	$ 233,577	$ 228,366
Surplus/Deficit	$ (6,832)	$ (12,633)
GF June 30	$ 35,146	$ 22,513
Public School Account	$ 455	$ -
Surplus/Deficit	$ 455	$ (455)
Safety Net Reserve	$ -	$ -
Surplus/Deficit	$ (900)	$ -
BSA (rainy day fund)	$ 18,291	$ 11,191
Surplus/Deficit	$ 4,268	$ (7,100)
Total Reserves	$ 18,746	$ 11,191
Surplus/Deficit	$ (4,713)	$ (7,555)

Source: https://ebudget.ca.gov/2025-26/pdf/Enacted/BudgetSummary/SummaryCharts.pdf. Figures for surpluses/deficits for the Public School, Safety Net, and BSA (budget stabilization account) for 2024-25 were derived from budget figures for 2023-24 as they appeared in the governor's January 2025 budget proposal.

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For UC, the general fund allocation is about $4.9 billion for 2025-26, more or less flat from the prior year. There are small additional allocations for special purpose funds outside the general fund.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 11:27 AM No comments:

Labels: governor, State Budget, UC budget crisis

Straws in the Wind - Part 41

From the Berkshire Eagle: *As the spring semester wound down and students completed their final exams, faculty at Williams College received an unexpected email. Williams, the email said, had temporarily stopped accepting funds from new grants issued by the National Science*

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Faculty leaders comment on UCB Chancellor Lyon's appearance before House Committee on Education and the Workforce
- CUCFA Opposes AB 715
- Pause Trellix and Form a Working Group to Explore Cybersecurity Solutions
- Objection to AB 1217, AB 684, and AB 500 – Protecting UC's Institutional Autonomy
- Delay the UC cybersecurity mandate

Remaking the University

- Liner Note 34: Derailing the Columbia Precedent - 7/27/2025
- The onto-epistemic limits of current American academic debates, Or what the modern West can't think (Guest Post) - 7/25/2025
- Liner Note 33. Trouble at the Irvine Core (UC Irvine Part 2) - 7/12/2025

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Remaking the University
- Changing Universities
- California Professor

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Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. Unlike large research universities, Williams receives just a handful of NSF and NIH grants each year. But for some Williams professors, those few grants are essential...

NSF and NIH grants serve a number of important functions for researchers. Most obviously, funds from federal grants pay for lab equipment, student salaries and overhead expenses. But grants also facilitate collaboration. "All of my grants have been collaborative with other institutions," said Luana Maroja, a biology professor. "If you remove our ability to apply, why will other institutions collaborate with us? We're going to turn into an island." ...

According to college communications, part of the sticking point stemmed from certain clauses added to new NSF and NIH grants. In particular, administrators highlighted one piece of language: "By accepting the awards, the recipients [Williams] are certifying that … they do not, and will not during the term of this financial assistance award, operate any programs that advance or promote DEI, or discriminatory equity ideology in violation of Federal anti-discrimination laws." Crucially, the new grant language did not explain what constituted "discriminatory equity ideology." ...

In recent months has the False Claims Act been used to target schools which allegedly violate civil rights laws... On May 19, Deputy U.S. Attorney General Todd Blanche announced that he would launch a new initiative focusing on civil rights violations. The initiative would rely heavily on the False Claims Act and, in part, target schools... The False Claims Act is powerful for two reasons...

First, the law says an institution which knowingly submits a false claim — like accepting a grant while violating one of its contractual terms — can be held liable for triple damages. Second, the False Claims Act includes a "qui tam" provision, which allows private individuals to file a lawsuit on behalf of the government — and potentially receive a share of the reward. Because the government does not have the resources to identify all sources of potential fraud — especially across a sprawling higher education landscape — this provision allows whistleblowers, regardless of motive, to allege misconduct as well...

Full story at https://www.berkshireeagle.com/news/northern_berkshires/williams-college-nih-nsf-grant-pause/article_c1fed19e-baf9-491c-9829-2e7176929329.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, Williams College

UC Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) - More Follow Up

We have noted in prior posts that proposed UC programs aimed at preventing cyber breaches have created concerns about privacy and other matters among faculty.* The item was forced on the agenda of the Academic Senate's systemwide Assembly by petition. (We have noted that a number of Assembly meetings have been marked by issues put on the agenda by petition this year, a symptom of Senate resistance to discussing matters of evident concern to faculty. That resistance is an issue in itself.)

However, although the minutes from the June meeting that was forced to take up the cybersecurity concerns are not yet available (why?), we have this item from the Bruin on the outcome:

Following the implementation of a systemwide cybersecurity program, UC faculty said they are concerned about privacy – and the University's failure to consult the Academic Senate before requiring its installation. The Assembly of the Academic Senate approved a June 12 resolution requesting the University halt the implementation and use of Trellix – an endpoint detection and response software that continuously monitors, detects and responds to cybersecurity threats. The resolution cited the ability of Trellix to upload or alter files without user consent, the potential for government agencies to access data and broader risks to research integrity and academic freedom as reasons for their opposition to the software.

The Senate also said in the resolution that the future deployment of a similar monitoring software should undergo a transparent evaluation process with faculty involvement. The resolution – approved by a 27–6 vote with 14 abstentions – followed over a year of faculty objections to the systemwide mandate...

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2025/07/13/uc-faculty-concerned-over-lack-of-consultation-privacy-on-cybersecurity-software.

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/06/uc-endpoint-detection-and-response-edr.html; https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/06/panel-on-uc-endpoint-detection-and.html.

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Contributors

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- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: email fraud, UC

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Cash Report for the Last Fiscal Year

The state controller's report for all of 2024-25, the fiscal year that ended on June 30 shows revenues to the general fund running over $3 billion ahead of projections for the May Revise and over $9 billion ahead of the projections made a year ago when the budget for 2024-25 was enacted. There was a lot of shuffling of cash between the general fund account and other reserves during the year.

Note that cash accounting differs from the modified accrual accounting used for the state budget. So in particular the fact that LA County income tax payments were allowed to be deferred to fall 2025 likely means that some of the revenue receipts that would normally have arrived in April 2025 will show up on a cash basis in the fiscal year that began July 1, 2025. Still, the Regents, when they review the budget at the meetings that start today, should be somewhat happier knowing revenues were underestimated rather than the reverse.

The budget estimates for the enacted budget on the accrual basis have not yet appeared on the Dept. of Finance website.

The controller's figures are at https://www.sco.ca.gov/Files-ARD/CASH/June2025StatementofGeneralFundCashReceiptsandDisbursements.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:

Labels: controller, State Budget, UC Regents

Un-Postponed

Blog readers will recall a posting last week saying the scheduled Congressional testimony of UC-Berkeley Chancellor Richard Lyons had been postponed. Well, it is apparently now un-postponed and scheduled for today. From yesterday's LA Times:

UC Berkeley's top leader on Tuesday [today] will face an influential congressional committee that is aligned with President Trump's political goal of reshaping higher education by punishing campuses he sees both as bastions of leftist ideologies and as institutions that have tolerated anti-Jewish hate. Chancellor Rich Lyons' appearance marks a significant moment for the university, which is under multiple federal investigations over allegations it has violated the civil rights of Jewish students and faculty. The committee Lyons will face has grown from relative obscurity to one of the most rattling in the wake of U.S. campus protests over the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led attack in Israel and Israel's war in Gaza.

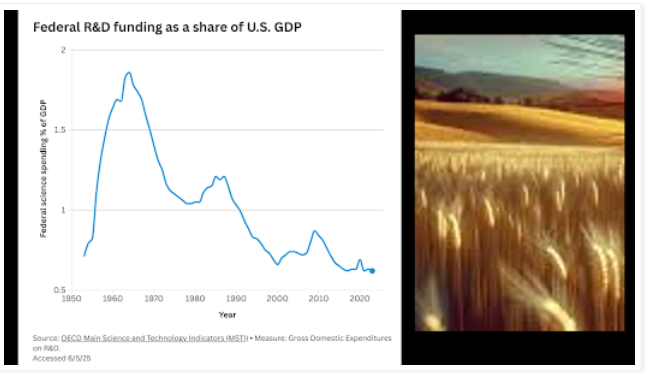
Grillings by the Republican-led group of representatives have led to the dramatic downfalls of the Harvard and University of Pennsylvania presidents and arguably contributed to the resignations of presidents from Columbia, Northwestern and Rutgers universities. The Trump administration has accused these and other mainly elite campuses of allowing antisemitism to fester amid pro-Palestinian protests since 2023. Lyons, who became chancellor a year ago, is the first UC leader to face the House Education & Workforce Committee during the Trump presidency as the White House has moved to dismantle major parts of Harvard's operation over antisemitism allegations and has pulled billions in research funding from it and other selective universities...

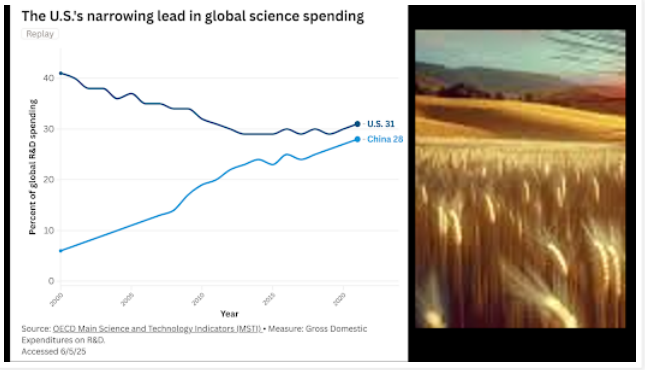
Full story at https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-07-14/uc-berkeley-chancellor-rich-lyons-antisemitism-congresstional-hearing.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, UC-Berkeley

Straws in the Wind - Part 40





Enough said.

Source of charts: https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/cuts-federal-science-spending-will-cost-every-american.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

Monday, July 14, 2025

What the Regents are likely to hear

The Regents are likely to hear about UC-San Francisco layoffs during public comments at their upcoming meetings this week. From SFGATE:

...200 people... were notified on June 25 that they'd be losing their jobs, with UCSF citing "serious financial challenges" as the primary reason. In a June 25 email, the hospital network said the firings were spread across the institution and it slashed positions with "the least impact on patients and daily operations." ...UCSF did not respond to SFGATE's request for a list detailing which exact positions were eliminated, but it said about a quarter of them worked per diem and that about half of the full-time employees that were let go held management positions...

Matt Stephen, a physician assistant and co-chair for UPTE-CWA 9119, UCSF's union of professional and technical employees, told SFGATE that many of the layoffs were frontline workers, including physical therapists, clinical lab scientists, research associates, emergency department clerks and ICU staff. He said the cuts would be detrimental to the hospital network because it is already constrained by its resources... Over the last year, UCSF workers have organized multiple strikes to protest the staffing crisis. During a May protest outside a University of California Board of Regents meeting, 20 labor advocates were arrested by UC police officers after refusing to leave...

Full story at https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/heartless-firings-bay-area-health-care-network-20761887.php.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, UC Regents, UC-San Francisco

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